

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 OIC-04 AEC-11 OMB-01

DRC-01 /151 W

----- 111536

R 211700Z JUN 74

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0172

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0098

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: REPORT OF JUNE 20,
1974 MEETING BETWEEN SOVIET DEPREP
AND UK REP

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MEMO OF BILATERAL MEETING
BETWEEN SOVIET DEP REP SMIRNOWSKY AND UK REP
ROSE WHICH WAS CIRCULATED AT 21 AHG MEETING.

BEGIN TEXT.

1. AFTER THE PLENARY MEETING THIS MORNING, KHLESTOV SAID
THAT HE REGRETTE HE WAS UNABLE TO SAY, AS I HAD SAID
TO HIM ON A PREVIOUS OCCASION ABOUT HIS STATEMENT, THAT
THE WESTERN STATEMENT WAS WELL ARGUED FROM A PROFESSIONAL POINT
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OF VIEW. HE THOUGHT THE CASE MADE FOR DEFERRING UK

PARTICIPATION UNTIL PHASE II WAS PARTICULARLY WEAK. HE AND SMIRNOVSKY BOTH SAID THAT IT DID NOT IN ANY CASE CORRESPOND TO THE POLICY OF THE PRESENT BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

2. I REPLIED THAT IT DID INDEED CORRESPOND TO HMG'S POLICY, AS I HOPED SMIRNOVSKY WOULD HAVE REALISED FROM THE COPIES OF VARIOUS STATEMENTS MADE BY MR CALLAGHAN AND MR MASON WHICH I HAD SENT HIM. I ASSUMED HE HAD READ THESE AND WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD FROM THEM THAT HMG WERE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE PHASED APPROACH, UNDER WHICH ONLY US AND SOVIET REDUCTIONS TOOK PLACE IN THE FIRST PHASE. (AT THIS POINT KHLESTOV LEFT.) SMIRNOVSKY CONFIRMED THAT HE KNEW MINISTERS HAD EXPRESSED THIS VIEW BUT ADDED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO STATE PUBLICLY THE POINT ABOUT THE UK NOT BEING "TREATED SEPARATELY FROM ITS PARTNERS IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY", IN VIEW OF THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF RE-NEGOTIATION. IN THE EVENT THAT THE UK DECIDED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE COMMUNITY, THE SITUATION WOULD HAVE CHANGED AND THE STATEMENT WOULD NO LONGER BE CORRECT.

3. I SAID THAT THE FORMULA WAS A CORRECT STATEMENT OF THE UK'S PRESENT POSITION. I COULD NOT DEAL WITH POSSIBLE HYPOTHETICAL SITUATIONS IN THE FUTURE, BUT EVEN IF THE SITUATION SMIRNOVSKY HAD POSTULATED WERE TO COME ABOUT, IT WOULD NOT AFFECT THE UK POSITION ON THE PHASING OF REDUCTIONS. THIS WAS NOT A MATTER OF LEGAL ARGUMENTATION OR LOGIC, BUT ONE OF POLICY. THE FACT WAS THAT, WE WISHED THE EXAMPLE TO BE SET IN A FIRST PHASE BY THE US AND SOVIET UNION AND WERE NOT PREPARED TO BE TREATED SEPARATELY FROM OUR WEST EUROPEAN ALLIES. SMIRNOVSKY SAID THAT, IF WE HAD USED THE TERM "ALLIES" IT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNDERSTANDABLE. I SAID THE POINT WAS THAT WE WERE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, WHICH SHARED CERTAIN COMMITMENTS, AND FOR THIS REASON HAD REFERRED TO OUR PARTNERS IN THE COMMUNITY, WHO WERE ALSO ALLIES. BUT WHICHEVER TERM WAS USED WOULD NOT ALTER OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS PHASING.

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4. SMIRNOVSKY ASKED IF UK FORCES WHICH WERE REDUCED WOULD BE TREATED IN THE SAME WAY AS OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. SINCE THE UNITED KINGDOM WAS NOT WITHIN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS AND THERE WERE OTHER UK

FORCES OUTSIDE IT, OUR FORCES IN THE AREA WERE BOUND TO HAVE A DIFFERENT STATUS. WERE WE PREPARED TO DISBAND

ANY FORCES WE WITHDREW FROM THE AREA? I SAID WE WERE NOT, BUT THIS WAS NOT THE QUESTION WE WERE ADDRESSING IN THE EXPLANATION WE HAD GIVEN OF OUR POLICY ON PHASING.

5. SMIRNOVSKY SAID THE TROUBLE ABOUT PHASING WAS THAT THERE WAS NO COMMITMENT BY ALL THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES. I ASKED WHETHER SUCH A COMMITMENT

WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE AS REGARDS THE EASTERN ATTITUDE TOWARDS PHASING. HE SAID THAT IT MIGHT IF WE WERE TO PUT DOWN ON PAPER WHEN AND BY HOW MUCH EACH COUNTRY WOULD REDUCE. I SAID WE HAD ALREADY GIVEN A GOOD DEAL OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONTENT AND TIMING OF THE SECOND PHASE. THIS WAS ALL FULLY SUMMARISED IN THE LATTER PART OF AMBASSADOR GRANDE'S STATEMENT. SMIRNOVSKY SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS BUT WE HAD STILL NOT ANSWERED TWO ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS WHICH WERE

BY HOW MUCH AND WHEN EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT WOULD REDUCE. I SAID WE HAD GONE AS FAR AS WE COULD IN THIS RESPECT.

END TEXT. RESOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MBFR, MEETINGS, TROOP REDUCTIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MBFRV00098
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740164-0078
From: MBFR VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740625/aaaaauvn.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <09 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: REPORT OF JUNE 20, 1974 MEETING BETWEEN SOVIET DEPREP
TAGS: PARM, US, UK, NATO, (SMIRNOWSKY), (ROSE)
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005